



AMERICA'S FAVORITE COWBOY



# HOPALONG CASSIDY

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# HOPALONG CASSIDY



ONE DAY AS SHERIFF HOPALONG CASSIDY SAT IN HIS OFFICE, THE DOOR BURST OPEN, AND...

YES--  
BUT  
WHAT?

LISTEN! HE  
CAME INTO MY  
STORE YESTER-  
DAY TO GET HIS  
HAT CLEANED...

WIT NLING THE HAT-MAKER?  
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MAN?

I'M IN TROUBLE, MERRY--  
DEADLY TROUBLE! LISTEN--  
DID YOU HEAR BAT HENDRICKS  
WAS IN TOWN?



"ALL MY LIFE I'D HEARD STORIES ABOUT BAT  
HENDRICKS, BUT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME  
I'D LAID EYES ON HIM..."

"I HAD TO EXPLAIN TO HIM THAT YOU HAD  
TO SOAK A HAT TO CLEAN IT..."

I HATE THIS HAT CLEANED! I'LL  
BAT RIGHT HERE TILL YOU'RE  
FINISHED!

I'M POWERFUL SORRY MR.  
HENDRICKS--HE--BUT YOU'LL  
HAVE TO WAIT TILL TOMORROW  
BEFORE YOU CAN HAVE YOUR  
HAT BACK!

OKAY!  
BUT GET  
THIS--



THAT BAT AND I HAVEN'T BEEN DEPARTED IN  
OVER FORTY YEARS! TAKE CARE OF IT! IF  
ANYTHING HAPPENS TO IT, I'M HOLDING  
YOU RESPONSIBLE, SALLY!

WELL,  
GUY!



"THAT WAS YESTERDAY! BUT THIS  
MORNING WHEN I OPENED THE  
STORE..."

!SHEP! SOMEONE  
BROKE IN THROUGH THAT WINDOW--  
AND STOLE BAT HENDRICKS' HAT!





# HOPALONG CASSIDY



HOPPY I REMEMBERED THE MANY MEN BUT HENDRICKS HAD FINISHED OFF--ALL IN THE COURSE OF DUTY AS SHERIFF OR MARSHAL.

HE'LL GET ME TOO-- UNLESS I FIND HIS HAT! YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME GET IT BACK, HOPPY!

WHT, TAKE IT EASY! YOUR STORY HAS SOME PECULIAR ANGLES



I'VE GOT A CERTAIN IDEA AND I WANT TO SEE BAT HENDRICKS TO CHECK ON IT. HERE'S HIS HOTEL. I YOU WANT TO COME ALONG WITH ME?

ME? BOGH, NO! I'LL SEE YOU LATER!



WHY WOULD ANYONE BREAK INTO YOUR HOUSE TO STEAL BAT'S HAT--AND NOTHING ELSE?

I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT! A BOLD OLD SCHEMER--WHD ANYBODY WANT TO STEAL THAT?



SHORTLY, AS THE TWO FAMOUS SHERIFFS MEET IN THE HOTEL LOBBY

I'LL BE GLAD TO HELP YOU ANY WAY I CAN, HOPPY--BUT YOU KNOW MY OUTLAW-HUNTING DAYS ARE OVER! I'VE RETIRED!

NO LARK IN I EVER REALLY CALLED IT. QUITS, BAT! HEAR ME OUT, ANYWAY.



THIS MORNING ABOUT SIX A.M., THE WELLS-FARGO EXPRESS FROM SHALLOTOWNE HAD BEEN HELD UP BY ONE MAN...

THROW DOWN THAT CASH BOX!

BETTER DO AS HE SAYS, BOYC!



MOMENTS LATER, THE MYSTERIOUS ROAD AGENT DISAPPEARED IN A HAIL OF SHOTS

RIBBED! HE'S GETTIN' AWAY!

GET TO TOWN! WE'LL NOTIFY SHERIFF CASSIDY! HURRY!





# HOPALONG CASSIDY



"I SPENT ALL MORNING TRAILING THE BANDIT, BAT! AND YOU KNOW WHAT?"

"I LOST YOU HIS TRACKS--RIGHT IN FRONT OF THIS HOTEL!"



"THAT'S WHAT I FIGURE, BAT! THAT'S NOT ALL! THE BANDIT WORE A HAT EXACTLY LIKE YOURS--THAT WAS GROWN!"

"NOW I SEEK TO REMEMBER THERE'S A LEGEND THEY DOED WITH YOUR HAT..."



"THAT'S TRUE..."

"IT'S SUPPOSED TO GIVE ME A CHARMED LIFE! IT WAS MADE FOR ME OUT OF BUFFALO HIDE BY AN INDIAN WHOSE LIFE I ONCE SAVED! THAT WAS FIFTY YEARS AGO!"



"OF COURSE I WAS A LOT YOUNGER THEN, BUT I REMEMBER EVERY DETAIL OF THE INCANTATION CEREMONY..."



"WHOEVER WEARS THIS BUFFALO HIDE WILL BE SAFE FROM EVIL! NO BULLETS WILL EVER HARM HIM!"

"WELL, THAT WAS IT, HOPPY! CHARM OR NOT, THE FACT IS THAT NO BULLETS HAVE EVER HIT ME..."

"THINKS, BAT! I JUST WANT TO CHECK UP ON THAT GUNNY CASE! THAT WAS THE WAY I HEARD IT!"



"WELL, IN CASE I CAN HELP YOU ANY OTHER WAY, HOPPY, DON'T HESITATE TO CALL ON ME!"

"LATER, AFTER BAT HENDRICKS HAD LEFT THE HOTEL, DESK CLERK ASKS TO SPEAK TO THE TOWN ENGINEER, LAMMAN..."

"I COULDN'T HELP OVERHEARING WHAT YOU SAID, SHERIFF! I JUST WANT TO TELL YOU THAT BAT HENDRICKS WAS NOT IN THE HOTEL AT THE TIME OF THE HOLD-UP THIS MORNING! HE WAS OUT!"



"THAT'S INTERESTING, PRYTON..."



# HOPALONG CASSIDY





# HOPALONG CASSIDY



AS THE TWIN RIVERS STAR—  
WEENER, LEAPS TO THE SADDLE  
AGAIN.



WHERE  
YOU HEADIN',  
HOPPY?

AFTER THE  
BANDYT!  
THERE'S HIS  
TRAIL-- **STILL  
FRESH!**

IN THE COUNTRY JUST  
NORTH OF TWIN RIVERS...

LOOKS LIKE HE'S CYCLING  
AROUND CROW-TOE MOUNTAIN  
TO GET TO THE REAR OF  
TOWN! BUT I CAN'T BE  
FAR BEHIND HIM NOW--  
EH? WAIT A MOMENT!

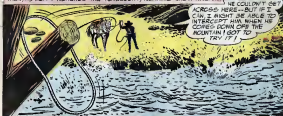


AS THE SHARPEYES OF THE  
AGE LANIAR PEER UPWARD...

THERE HE IS! HE'S CROSSING  
CROW RIVER BY THE MOUNTAIN  
TRAIL--AND HE'S SPOTTED  
ME! THOSE SHOTS ARE  
COMING A LITTLE TOO  
CLOSE!



THEN, AS HOPPY REACHES THE TURBULENT, ROILING CROW RIVER...



HE COULDN'T GET  
ACROSS HERE--BUT IF I  
CAN, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO  
INTERCEPT HIM WHEN HE  
COES DOWN OFF THE  
MOUNTAIN! GOT TO  
TRY IT!

SHORTLY, WITH THE LARIAT SWINGING BETWEEN  
THE TWO BANKS LIKE A CABLE, THE LARUPIN  
LANIAR GUIDES HIS STEED ACROSS...



THAT'S IT, BOY! KEEP  
SWIMMING!

ACROSS! AFTER, ON THE OTHER BANK...

I'VE GAINED ON HIM--BUT HE'S  
STILL GOING TO REACH TOWN  
BEFORE I CAN CATCH HIM!





# HOPALONG CASSIDY







# HOPALONG CASSIDY



WITH A LIGHTNING-FAST SWAP OF HIS NOSE, HOPPY SENDS THE BUFFALO HIT IN HIS HAND WHIRLING AT THE GUNMAN...



AND BEFORE HIS ANTAGONIST CAN RECOVER, THE LAWMAN DIVES IN...



LATER IN HOPPY'S HAT STORE, AFTER DAYTON HAS BEEN JAILED AND THE LOOT RECOVERED...



IT WAS DAYTON WHO STOLE BAT'S HAT FROM YOUR STORE, WHIT! HE'D HEARD THE LEGEND ABOUT IT, AND HE FIGURED IF THE HIT HAD PROTECTED BAT FROM BULLETS--ALL THREE YEARS, IT SHOULD DO THE SAME FOR HIM! BUT THE CURIOUS FACT IS...

...WASN'T THE HIT DAYTON WENT TO SO MUCH TROUBLE TO GET--WAS THE VERY THING THAT LED TO HIS DOWNFALL! IF I DIDN'T HAVE IT IN MY HANDS AT THE RIGHT MOMENT--

WE MIGHT HAVE SHOT YOU AND NOT CLEAN AWAY!



BAT, LET ME GIVE YOU BACK YOUR FAMOUS HAT NOW THAT WHIT HAS CLEANED IT--

HOPPY, I'VE--ER--GOT A CONFESSION TO MAKE! TRAD IS JUST AN ORDINARY HAT I BOUGHT IN DODGE CITY FORTY YEARS AGO...

I MADE UP THAT TALE OF THE INDIAN AND THE INCANTATION TO SCARE OFF BADMEN WHO HAD A YEN TO TRADE SHOTS WITH ME! AND IT'S SURE SAVED ME A LOT OF TROUBLE DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS!

WELL, THAT'S ONE SURPRISE ENDING THAT NOT EVEN I FIGURED ON!

